

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to incorporate the Examiner's suggestions for overcoming the objections noted in the Office Action of July 14, 2005.

Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Victor MacArthur to applicants' undersigned representative and his associate, Eric P. Robins, during a personal interview conducted on December 20, 2005.

During the aforementioned interview, applicants' representative pointed out that none of the teachings of McGath, nor any possible interpretation of McGath, taught, nor made obvious, the claimed invention.

Although the Examiner made no indication of allowability during the interview, applicants submit that McGath cannot possibly be construed to make obvious the present invention.

The present invention is directed to a joint between first and second boards, where the joint is formed by a groove on one board and a tenon on another board, but where the tenon and groove define two fitting clearances, the first fitting clearance being bound by at least one of an upper surface of the tenon and the upper surface of the groove, or a lower surface of the tenon and the lower surface of the groove, and the second guiding fitting clearance being formed between a guiding wedge and at least one of the upper and lower surface of the groove. This is defined by independent claims 6 and 17 and it is not possibly found in or suggested by the teachings of McGath. As can be seen from applicants' original drawings, e.g., Figs. 1 and 2, a first board having a groove 1 and a second board having a tenon 2 can be joined together to form a joint between the two boards. As defined by independent claims 6 and 17, wherein a first fitting clearance is formed between an upper surface of

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